



SENATOR
BILL HARDIMAN

E-Hardiman Herald



*Chair, Families & Human
Services Committee
Appropriations Committee:
Chair, Family Independence
Agency, Commerce Labor
& Economic Development,
Capitol Outlay,
Higher Education*

HARDIMAN HERALD – FEBRUARY 2006

SENATOR HARDIMAN CONTINUES MARCH IS READING MONTH TRADITION

On March 3, Senator Hardiman will kick off reading month by visiting area schools and reading to children. During March, the national reading month, Hardiman encourages reading among area students and stresses its importance. This year he will be visiting over twenty area schools in association with reading month.

"Reading is a great time to think about the importance of reading in young people's lives and how necessary it is to succeed as an adult," Hardiman said. "I really enjoy reading to students. I tell them I certainly wouldn't have been able to serve as a mayor or a state senator without reading."

BLACK HISTORY MONTH IS A TIME TO REMEMBER

Senator Hardiman participated along side House and Senate members of the Michigan Legislative Black Caucus (MLBC) in a special event to celebrate Black History Month earlier this month at the Capitol in Lansing. This year's theme was "Celebrating Unity & Embracing Diversity." As chaplain of the MLBC, Senator Hardiman gave the events benediction.

Black History Month is an ideal time to remember the courage and commitment of Dr. King, Harriet Tubman, Medgar Evers, Mary McLeod Bethune, Rosa Parks, Dr. W.W. Plummer, Ray Tardy, Helen Claytor, Rev. Lyman Parks, Dr. Edward Jones, Jr. and many other leaders who fought for equality for all and made history themselves. Thank you to all who inspired a movement and challenged the order of the day.

VAN ANDEL EDUCATION INSTITUTE ESTABLISHES SCIENCE ACADEMY

The Van Andel Institute (VAI) has established the Van Andel Education Institute (VAEI) Science Academy, a nonprofit academic institution designed to prepare and motivate students to pursue higher level science training and enter science-related fields, train teachers, and study how children learn science. The "Signature Program," the first offering by the academy, is a three-year out-of-school-time (OST) cohort program for 4th and 5th graders from the Grand Rapids area.

VAEI Science Academy curricula will be built on an in-depth focus on the life sciences and will target elementary and, eventually, middle and high school students. Through rich and rigorous curricula and focused research, the VAEI Science Academy will promote science learning, encourage students to pursue science, and add to the body of knowledge of how students learn science. Additionally, academy plans call for professional development programming for teachers who seek training in science curricula and instruction.

It is the goal that the VAEI Science Academy student body will be reflective of the demographics of the Grand Rapids Community. A unique feature of the academy is that student selection will be made independent of school district and academic performance, with students from public and private schools, urban and suburban districts, and home school settings eligible. The initial group of 20 students will be selected from applicants from the greater Grand Rapids area for a three-week summer cohort session running July 10 - July 27, 2006. The cohort design, one in which students stay together as a team for a multi-year program, encourages the group to develop strong bonds, holding each other accountable to the program and the team. Each student and their parent and/or sponsor will be asked to make a three-year commitment to the summer cohort program. A second summer program will be available in August for non-cohort students.

The academy will offer two three-year after-school cohort programs beginning in September 2006 and January 2007. Tuition for all children in the first years of programming will be completely underwritten by the Van Andel Institute.

For more information on the program I would encourage to visit the Van Andel Education Institute web site at

HARDIMAN PLANS TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS METHAMPHETAMINE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION TO CHILDREN

Hardiman set to introduce legislation as part of a larger package of bills that focus on protecting children from methamphetamine and cleaning up hazardous waste sites. Specifically, the Hardiman legislation would amend the Child Protection Law of 1975 to make some important changes regarding the exposure of children to methamphetamine, or its production.

First, the list of persons required to contact the Department of Human Services with suspected child abuse cases is expanded to include specific references to different categories of social workers.

Second, law enforcement agencies are specifically required to report suspected instances of child exposure to meth production to the Department of Human Services.

Third, the Department of Human Services staff is specifically required to notify law enforcement if a child abuse or neglect investigation indicates a child has been exposed to meth production.

These may seem like obvious provisions, but the changes in this bill would highlight the emerging danger of meth production to children, and underscore the importance of communication between the Department of Human Services and law enforcement. In recent reviews of a suspected child abuse investigation, it appears such communication needs to be strengthened, and this bill will hopefully help.

SENATOR HARDIMAN DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS

Senator Hardiman will be holding monthly district office hours the first Monday of each month from 10:00am - 11:30am throughout the 29th district. Be sure to talk to the Senator at these upcoming office hours:

- **Monday, March 6, 2006, Baxter Community Center, 935 Baxter St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506**
- **Monday, April 10, 2006, Lowell YMCA, 1335 Main St., Lowell, MI 49331**

Senator Hardiman will hold this time each month so constituents of the 29th district have an opportunity to speak with him one-on-one about any questions or concerns they may have regarding state issues. You can also contact Senator Hardiman via his toll-free number: 1-866-305-2129 or visit Senator Hardiman's homepage to set-up a meeting outside of the district hours, www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/hardiman

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Hardiman Herald is designed to provide residents and organizations with a timely update of Senator Bill Hardiman's activity in Lansing. If you have any questions, please contact Senator Hardiman's office.

Mail: P.O. Box 30036 Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

Toll-Free Phone: (866) 305-2129

Fax: (517) 373-5801

E-mail: www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/hardiman